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Message Text

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67
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-11 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00

FPC-01 H-02 INT-05 L-03 NSC-05 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-03

SS-15 FEA-01 NRC-05 AF-06 /123 W
---------- 059400
R 091715Z MAR 76
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO ERDA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 706
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 02385

ERDA PASS N. SIEVERING, AIA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH
SUBJECT: URANIUM ENRICHMENT

1. DISCUSSION OCCURED LAST WEEK BETWEEN J.H. RUBIN, SENOR ERDA REP., AND DR. RUDOLF HARDE, PRESENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD FOR GFK, WHICH IS THE OPERATING ORGANIZATION FOR THE KARLSRUHE NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTER. DR. HARDE ASSUMED THIS POSITION IN JANUARY 1976, AND WAS FORMERLY TECHNICAL MANAGING DIRECTOR AT INTERATOM.

2. IN DESCRIBING ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AT KARLSRUHE, DR. HARDE INCLUDED THE NOZZLE PROCESS FOR ENRICHING URANIUM. HE MENTIONED THAT ONE OF THE FACTORS SUPPORTING FRG'S INCLUDING NOZZLE TECHNOLOGY IN THE NUCLEAR EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL WAS THE KNOWLEDGE ITS STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT LIMITED THE PROCESS
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TO LOW ENRICHMENT CAPABILITY. ACCORDING TO DR. HARDE, THIS

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WAS DUE TO EQUIPMENT DESIGN AND EFFICIENCY, COUPLED WITH
A PLANT LAYOUT WHICH PRECLUDED RECYCLE OF THE GAS STREAM.
RUBIN COMMENTED THAT HE DID NOT RECALL HEARING THIS ARGUMENT
USED BEFORE. HARDE STATED IT WAS FREQUENTLY DISCUSSED IN
FRG CIRCLES.

3. HARDE ALSO NOTED THAT THE NOZZLE PROCESS WAS A LARGE
POWER CONSUMER AND ANY ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A SECRET PLANT
WOULD BE EASILY DETECTED.

4. WHILE BASIS FOR CONFIDENCE THAT NOZZLE TECHNOLOGY IS
NOT CAPABLE OF PRODUCING HIGH ENRICHED URANIUM IS NOT
CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD, ABOVE DISCUSSION IS REPORTED FOR
FURTHER ASSESSMENT. ALSO, SINCE THE ARGUMENT HAS NOT BEEN
OBSERVED BEFORE NOW, IT COULD EVENTUALLY SURFACE IN THE FRG,
BRAZIL AND EVEN THROUGH S. AFRICAN EXPLOITATION OF THEIR
"FIXED WALL CENTRIFUGE" SYSTEM. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 09 MAR 1976
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To: ERDA
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